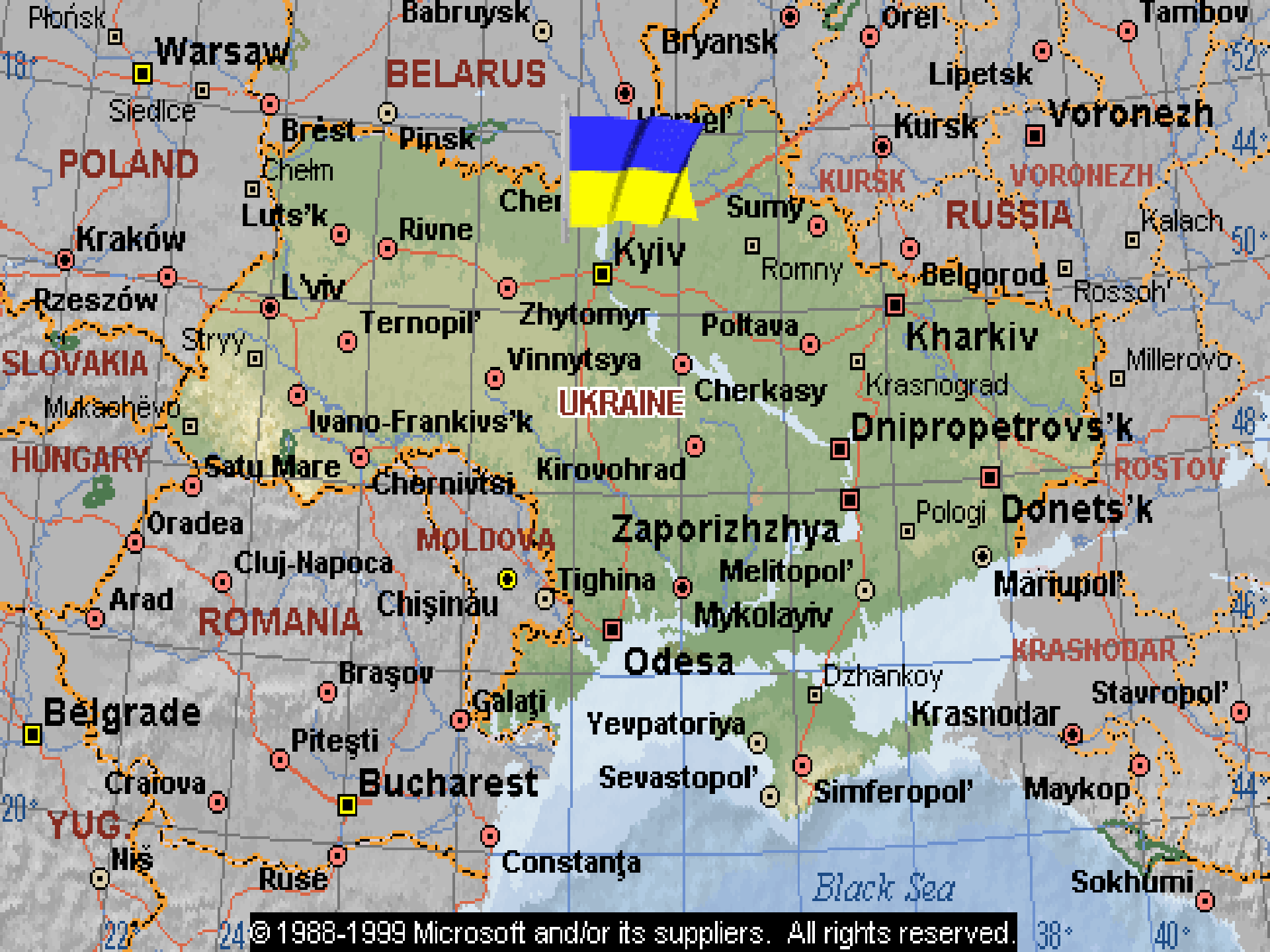
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

UKRAINE



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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Ukraine

Capital: Kiev

Population: 49,811,174 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Valeriy Pustov

Official language(s) Ukrainian, Russian,

Economy: Agricultural-Socialist

Religions: Ukrainian Orthodox (90%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: Chernobyl and all areas within a 30-kilometer radius are closed to foreigners.

International Airport: Kiev

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, Ukraine International Airwa

Other methods of arrival: Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: Vulitsa Yuria Kotsubinskoho 10, 01901 Kiev 53.

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Transportation: Public transportation: Fair.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Travel between cities at night and in winter can become extremely treacherous. Roadside services such as gas stations and repair facilities are becoming more common but remain

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: DoD personnel on leave, including family members, require passports, visas, military ID cards and leave orders. Additionally, they must receive Country clearance prior to travel. Personnel planning on traveling to Ukraine on space available travel must have Country clearance, valid passport, and valid Ukrainian visa prior to arrival in Ukraine. All official travel to Ukraine requires DoS approval and

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required except those on diplomatic passports accredited to Ukraine. . . High-value items, to include foreign currency, precious metals, expensive jewelry and watches, must be declared. Additionally, other valuables, such as computers, cameras, and video cameras should be declared to avoid tariffs upon departures. For official travel, travelers should indicate when

Duty-free entry for used personal effects: Cigarettes, alcohol, and perfumes in large quantities may require duty payments. The export of some works of art may require the payment of an "export tariff" of some 600 percent, while others may be

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Travelers crossing the land border between Poland, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Moldova, or Romania should expect several hours of delays. All foreigners visiting Ukraine, except for minors and those staying less than three working days, are required to register their passports with local law enforcement authorities. The registration requirement is automatically met when foreigners stay in hotels, when resident business persons register their companies, or when students register under established exchange programs. Firearms are prohibited in flight and at the airport. Weapons may not be transported into or out of the country. Personnel on missions requiring the transmission of weapons, such as dignitary security details or military training exercises, must coordinate the transport of weapons

American Embassy operating hours are 0900-1800L Monday through Friday except holidays. The American Embassy observes American holidays and the following Ukrainian holidays when they fall on a weekday: 7 Jan; 8 Mar; 1, 2, 8 and

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Customs requires travelers to declare all foreign currency. Ukrainian currency cannot be removed from the country. The amount of foreign currency taken out of the country cannot exceed the amount brought in. Official currency exchange facilities are located throughout the country. Do not exchange currency on the black market. Bring new, un-mutilated, unmarked American currency for exchange in Ukraine. Ukraine remains a cash economy. Although travelers checks and credit cards are gaining wider acceptance in Western-style hotels, restaurants, and stores in the bigger cities, they are virtually worthless in much of the country. Customs regulations prohibit sending cash, travelers checks, personal checks, credit cards, or passports through the international mail system to Ukraine. These items are regularly confiscated as contraband. Under customs regulations, travelers are allowed to bring up to $10,000 USD into Ukraine without special permission. Entering with more than $10,000 requires special paperwork. In the event that it

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, malaria,

Availability of medical services: Poor . Ukraine has passed a law whereby all visitors may be required to obtain health insurance at the point of entry into Ukraine. Travelers should be prepared to purchase Ukrainian health insurance prior to processing through immigration. To date, the cost for this

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Ukraine. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: Medical and dental care of Western quality is limited. The availability of basic medical supplies, has improved, but is still not good. Anyone staying longer than three months requires an HIV test. Must take anti-

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Ukraine. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

USDAO Kiev observes a two-person rule when conducting official travel in-country, for both safety and security reasons. USDAO requires, except in the most extreme situations and as approved on a case-by-case basis by the defense attache, that DoD and DoD-sponsored personnel have a US or Allied travel partner. USDAO Kiev does not recommend automobile travel at night outside of major populated areas. Roads are not well lit and are in poor condition. There is no potable tap water in Ukraine. Travelers should use bottled water only. Travelers are also recommended against ordering soft drinks, or mixed drinks, with ice, since the ice is often made from undistilled tap water. While most public eating and drinking establishments in the major cities are considered safe,

CRIME

Criminal Activities: A number of racially motivated assaults and incidents of harassment have recently been reported. The U.S. Embassy has received reports of at least two assaults on African-Americans. These attacks do not seem to be premeditated or related. The areas around the U.S. Embassy in Kiev, including Unification Park, which was the sight of one of the attacks, are used as gathering points for "skinhead" groups, who have targeted individuals of African or Asian heritage in the past. Persons of African or Asian descent, including American citizens, are subject to frequent stops and searches by local police ("militia"). There are several credible reports that such incidents have led to harassment and physical abuse. Crime in general is a growing problem

Ukraine is strict on: Immigration. Ukraine does not recognize dual nationality. American citizens entering Ukraine with a Ukrainian passport will be treated as Ukrainian citizens by the local authorities. In addition, Ukrainians who have immigrated to the United States without obtaining the proper exit visa from Ukrainian authorities may be subject to civil or

WEATHER

http://cnn

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Normally, civilian clothing is worn for travel to, within, and from Ukraine. Those military personnel arriving for official functions will be advised by the USDAO POC about appropriate uniform wear. Clothing for US temperate zones is suitable. Ukraine experiences weather situations similar to those in northeastern United States. Summers can be hot and humid, winters cold.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

UKRAINE